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White UNDER

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MARVELOUS WORK OF UNITED STATES SECRET-SERVICE MEN.

How the Plotters of the Philadelphia-Lancaster Counterfeiting Conspirncy Were Run Down.

SHREWD AND BOLD CRIMINALS

WHO STARTLED THE COUNTRY WITH THEIR NEFARIOUS SCHEME,

and Who Were So Cunning and Expert They Even Manufactured

Bogus Money in Prison.

Special to the Indianapolis Journal. PHILADELPHIA, July 26.-There is a old mine of dramatic inspiration in the remarkable climax just enacted in the great- up to the present moment the counterfeitest counterfeiting conspiracy of criminal ers have still proven that they are quite as

The exploits of Scotland Yard and Conan | Philadelphia-Lancaster counterfeiting con- ufactured

they were startled into believing that some of the dangerous crowd had slipped through a counterfeiting career. Chief Wilkie, after | with Taylor and Bredell, under the very a conference with Secretary Gage and other | eyes of the prison officials, received the treasury officials, immediately turned his forces into the field of investigation. There known even to each other, and came from Boston, Chicago, St. Louis, New York and California. For weeks they were baffled at every turn. They chased shadows and clews until it looked hopeless. Finally the his chief, made the unheard of discovery the walls of Moyamensing Prison. Such an and ridiculed by the prison authorities. When it was finally proved to be true by adjutors, the United States government most minute lines of the government note dell. This young man and his partner were of recent origin or growth-since the as an example of that trait. Taylor and at intervals-their ingenuity and skill ity. It is this brief in the chronicle of the ness, and furnished the Secret-service Bureau with food for almost any sort of con-

UNEARTHING THE CONSPIRACY.

Secret-Service Officers Aided by an Ingenious Young Inventor.

The discovery of the original conspiracy by the Secret Service Bureau and the splendid intelligence manifested by Chief Wilkie and his associates in the work, was one of the biggest feathers in the headdress of reputation worn by that branch of the government service. But it devolved upon them with double force to run this newer and apparently more dangerous attack to an extraordinary amount of skill. But Tayearth with all dispatch. They went to lor and Bredell had long since mastered this work with all the machinery of their su- part of their art. After two plates were perfectly prepared and hidden away there perb system in working form, and all credit | was another move in the dangerous work

is due them for the result attained. But the power behind their throne of investigation was the co-operation and advice of a the printing press eluded the vigilance of other confederates now in prison.

process of counterfeiting employed and the | calculable danger to the government. performs miracles in the art of engraving. When the operations of the secret service | When the Treasury Department discovmen had narrowed to the Philadelphia field | ered them and the Secret-service Bureau

boldness, originality and skill worthy any of this most dangerous of all counterfeiting great work will not be questioned. Even processes.

shrewa as the forces they are contending

All the evidence that the treasury detect- How the Greatest of Counterfeiting Doyle's heroes are relegated to the back- ives were able to secure following their disground and the famed Vidocq of France of it was destroyed by the counterfeiters. appears like an amateur in the light of the But the government again, through the United States secret-service men had treasury detectives, Secretary Gage and the for the first time in the history of counter-feiting. How it was procured is another company in Philadelphia, was employed in

ould master the difficulties of making the

HOW THE NOTES WERE MADE.

Plates Not Engraved, but Etched on

Steel by a New Process. were not engravings at all. They were the When this bolt from the clear sky of ap- Taylor's skilled hands, to overcome the im-

come of the secret process. Through one or more of the friendly materials necessary for the starting of a were very carefully and gradually smuggled to them in small quantities. After this came the mixing of the proportions and the first coating of the steel plates. Then a genuine half of the note to be counterfeited began to figure in the operations of the was laid upon the coating and the plate was exposed to a light. In the magic worktography, and a negative was obtained of one-half of the bill. So fine is the process, the process. Human handiwork could not fashion lines so fine, unless aided by the daylight. The wonder of it all is that the with the tellers of the bank. Knowing the perfect counterfeit was made in the dull been put through successful operation on the plate the acids were mixed into the magic formula that was to bite out of the

plate every line, every tracing and every upon the coating. A variation of the smallest degree meant the undoing of the work. The quality of skill required on the part of the men operating under such remarkable disadvantage can be better imagined than written. The acid was then applied to the plate and time and patience assisted human skill in the work. which was to stop the work of the acid and render its offices towards the finishing of the plate. When the plate emerged from the bath it was almost perfect. The difference between "almost" and "quite" was the gulf which made detection possible and which called for the rare skill of Taylor's engraving gavel. How the use of this and the discovery of the process led to their un-When Taylor had engraved the finishing touches upon the plate and it was ready for printing he carefully wrapped it in a soft a comparatively easy matter, for no one suspected the existence of such an opera-Another plate was smuggled to them and it went through the same process. This time applied to the other half-the reverse side of the genuine bill. In the splitting of the genuine bill there was required

young genius whose participation in the drama has never been suspected by the outside world, but whose counsel was complete the work. Finally came the print-sought at every turn. His amazing skill ing of the bogus certificate, which required and his strong contentions in behalf of his | infinite patience, because the work was own judgment upset the theories of govern- | done on the smallest hand press obtainable ment experts and were in reality the looms | -one barely large enough to exert an even upon which were woven the net which en- pressure over the entire surface of the bill. meshed the conspirators. The first evi- There was a separate die used for the seals dence of his connection with the famous | upon the bill and for the number as well case will be offered when he is called to The preparation of these required the entestify as an expert for the government in graving skill of the operators, and the the new trials which will be given the specimens of their handiwork were as counterfeiters, their legal counselor and nearly perfect as it was possible for them to be. The extreme fineness of reduction In almost every line of their investigation | of which this secret process is capable is a the services of this young unknown have | matter of astonishment to all who see It. been invaluable. His discoveries as to the In that particular alone it was of almost inmethods used were as valuable in detecting | When the certificates were completed and the criminals as the work of the Secret | passed into circulation, Taylor and Bredell Service Bureau itself. Without his co-oper- rested on their oars and awaited develop ation Chief Wilkie and the operators would | ments. As time went by and no intellihave been at their rope's end more than gence of the notes being detected reached once. This young man is himself the in- them they took on a new confidence. They ventor of a process which pretty nearly argued that it was almost beyond reason-In the imperfect imitation of his own housed in prison. How many of the counprocess attempted by the counterfeiters lay | terfeits of Moyamensing Prison manufac-

and Operator Burns, with the aid of this again started on its tireless work Chief unknown investigator, had convinced Chief | Wilkie scarcely knew in what direction to Wilkie that the counterfeiting was done in | look for the solution of the new mystery Moyamensing prison, a visit was made to But his lucky star was not long behind the the authorities of the jail and the facts laid | clouds, and this new sensation of sensations before them. Their intelligence was treated is the result. It is now certain as any like the freak of a disordered imagination. | thing except death can be that every per-It was pronounced not only impossible, but son concerned in this plot is safely under absurd; not only unlikely, but unheard of, government lock and key, and that there is The world now knows that it was done, and | no one in this country, except the unknown the methods and process are here recorded whose help has been the strong arm of for the first time. That they displayed a the government in these cases, knows aught

THE ORIGINAL PLOT.

Schemes Was Uncovered.

The exact means of the discovery of the amazing disclosures laid bare, after the agency of the young inventor (whose name original plot have never been given to the United States secret-service men had is a secret, known only to the criminals, the public. As they are of importance in the

materials necessary for the making of ey. The young inventor and Taylor kept up

just as good as the genuine. In fact, to creasing in number and were passing freethe lack of any quality of the genuine, but from the fact that the Treasury Department discovered that two certificates bore the same number. How perfect was the

Philadelphia without detection. counterfeiting plant in Moyamensing. They | birthplace of the bogus Monroe certificate Chief Wilkie concentrated his forces and veillance. This fact may be news to them these favored few were Taylor and Bredel secret formulas mastered by Taylor. The very fact noted by the young inventor by Taylor's gavel led to the broader path- that these men were able to live in comway of detection. The chemicals and acids parative luxury while the income from their workshop justified only starvation.

and so nearly perfect its action, that the tions were narrowed upon Taylor and Bredetail of the original and genuine that in business at Tenth and Chestnut streets | earliest time it has been in vogue among escapes the unerring work of the light upon and made their deposits at one of the trust Tartars and kindred tribes and races, and companies located a few doors from their this sort of false analogy may be well unbest instruments known to the engraver's establishment. In the course of their regu- derstood by comparison with the similar art, with the assistance of the brightest lar business they became well acquainted art of palmistry, or divining by the lines of When the first part of the process had through the wicket and asked him what he feat, and even in England at the present he said: "I would like to take this up to the office and look it over.' now," said the teller, "but I'll introduce you to one of their men and you can ask

something about this, if I get a chance to Burns willingly assented, for the secret service men were then at that point of they could not locate the makers, although they strongly suspected that operations of his examination was more important to secret process-imperfect, of course, for between the time he had parted intimacy with l'aylor he had improved his invention until he saw that Taylor had remembered enough traditional and "personally conducted" of the secret he had imparted to him to turn out a pretty good specimen.
Then it all came to him. The suspicions

HE WORKS HIS INCANTATIONS BY THE AID OF A SHEEP'S BONE.

Like All Primitive People, the Natives of Thibet Are Addicted to Many Superstitious Practices.

GREAT MOUNTAIN RANGE

RUGGED AND DESOLATE IS THE WAY THE HILLS APPEAR.

Vegetation for the Most Part Is Confined to Valleys and Sheltered Spots-A Pingue of Insects.

["Among the Parthest People." Copyright by W. C. J. Reid.] The nomad chief, who had shown himself so warlike, changed his tactics, and on his urgent invitation we visited him in his tent. Once there, we sat down amid a heterogenous crew of his followers, children, women; groped among bed places, fire holes and dog litters, discussed various questions of weighty import, and, mixed up with these higher matters, touched incipublic. As they are of importance in the dentally upon rats, fleas and all kinds of turned their unerring searchlight upon the writer), is in possession of the secrets of development of the present case, and deeply vermin. I say "touched incidentally" upon bold operations of the principals in the the process by which the only counterfeit interesting on their own account, bearing a these things, but, to tell the truth, we money ever made in a prison cell was man-ufactured. The plates are in Chief Wilkie's vital relation to its successful prosecution talked so much about them that when we in these regions. The sting of some of the

That it was done perfectly makes it akin and the other to perfect his discovery. Tay- interfered with the departure of several mitted behind the railing-a privilege he arts, should not by this time have ardates in jall if they only had the neces- engraving shop. This fact was the burden the folds of his coat a sheep's shoulder of another mental reservation by the young | blade, for the space of a quarter of an terfeit was to every intent and appearance | oughly charged, when it was carefully laid on the ground and the more serious process

of divination commenced. A MAGIC SHEEP BONE. By examining closely the cracks made in wish to know. A reputation for skill in has made the name of the United States | magic and divination is the most coveted desire of all natives of Thibet and Mongolia; a successful forecaster enjoys an lines cut in the plates by the keen gavel in delphia. During this time they were in- enviable position among his own people and sometimes becomes famous throughout a large district. The methods pursued by each vary widely, but the practice of divination by means of a sheep's shoulder blade is the agencies they were allowed to communicate counterfeit when it is noted that it passed most universal, and likewise the most popthrough the scrutiny of the subtreasury in ular, since it brings the possibility of in-When the Secret Service Bureau was dulging in the pleasant business of divinafinally convinced that Philadelphia was the | tion to the door of even the poorest man. Rockhill explains the meaning of the cracks turned the full strength of their work upon | in the bone, as read by the Mongols of Ts'aidam, as follows: The longitudinal ones show the duration of the journey, the transversal ones the good or bad fortune that is to befall the traveler, the deeper lines representing evil omens and dangers, every engraver in Philadelphia narrowed | which will be small or great according to down to the scrutiny of a few. Among | the size of the cracks, the small lines denoting the amount of good fortune to be or at least mastered to nearly an absolute regarding their unique prosperity was noted met with. Likewise, in addition, I have learned from the natives that one side of other for animals, while the future state of It was about this time that the inventor | bone, and that if by any chance it should ing of this process the action of the light engravers, he had been under the eye of | would befall the rash traveler who dared to upon the plate performed the office of pho- the detectives. He was even one of the fa- fly in the face of this unmista table sign of

the hand. Attila, before the battle of Chalons, thus learned of his impending dediscovered that it was made in Philadel- practice, known as "reading the spealphia. After a keen examination of the bill | bone," finds ready disciples among the uneducated classes. Among the Mongols and "It belongs to the secret service people | Thibetans It is an essential almost to existence; no one would dare to undertake a journey, however short, without consulting This was agreed to and he met operator | this potent oracle, or, as a last resort, if Burns and said: "Maybe I can tell you a sheep's shoulder-blade is not obtainable, put it under the glass and make some ob- without striving to secure similar results from their resaries. In the rettled villages, the lamas, who take upon toemselves the their investigation when they were positive | performance of nearly all this kind of work stone figures and the consultation of a book tich of the dice denotes. As the searcher that it was practically made by his own | for this occult information is obliged to pay liberally for the services of these priestly it did marvelous work without a flaw. But | that he finds it necessary to desert the shoulder-blade.

From this encampment, on the 29th, we (CONTINUED ON PAGE 14. COL. 2.) ascended a stony plateau past a few cones